

[7th February 1924]

Cabinet.*The issue of a Whip on the 'No-confidence' motion.*

178 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a letter of Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar, M.L.C., appearing in the 'Swarajya' of the 22nd December 1923 and referring to a Whip issued by the hon. the Raja of Panagal with regard to the 'No-confidence' motion;

(b) whether he knew of that Whip, dated the 21st November 1923, on the 27th November 1923, when he answered my Oral question in the Council; and

(c) whether the hon. the Raja of Panagal in issuing the said Whip had consulted any or all of his Colleagues in the Cabinet?

A.—(a) It has now been drawn to it.

(b) The answer is in the negative. I was asked to dispense with notice and reply immediately to a question relating to action taken in the Home Department. I took it that what the hon. Member had in view was a telegram issued by the Labour Commissioner at the instance of the Secretary to the Council to certain of the nominated members who represent the depressed classes, and having ascertained that that telegram could not possibly bear the complexion of a Government Whip, I gave the answer that I did.

(c) The Government consider that details of consultations between the Members that compose it should be treated as secret. They cannot therefore answer this question.

Discussions in the Cabinet.

179 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased—

(a) to lay on the table a statement showing the portfolios held and administered by the seven Members of the Cabinet; and to state—

(b) whether all subjects are discussed at full meetings of the Cabinet, and

(c) whether the Members of the Executive Council and the Ministers meet separately for the discussion and decision of questions relating to the Reserved and Transferred departments respectively?

A.—(a) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 61.

(b) & (c) The procedure in respect of the transaction of business in his Executive Council and with his Ministers is regulated by His Excellency the Governor. The Government do not think it desirable to disclose the details of the procedure followed or of the part taken by particular Members of the Government in the transaction of any particular business.